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The Prophecy

A TIBETAN TALE



Amar Chitra Katha

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The Prophecy

Buddhism took root in Tibet between the 7th and 10th centuries.

By the 14th century the sacred books of the Buddhists in Pali and Sanskrit had been rendered into the Tibetan language. Some of the Sanskrit texts lost in India, the country of their origin, are today known to us only from their Tibetan translations. This Chitra Katha is based on a story from one such translation.

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THE PROPHECY



THE KING OF VARANASI LAY ON HIS DEATHBED.



I WILL LEAVE
BEHIND CONTENTED
SUBJECTS,
A PROSPEROUS
KINGDOM AND
AN HEIR.



LOYAL
GOSHTHILA WILL
CONTINUE TO
GUIDE MY SON,
SURYANEMI AS
HE GUIDED ME.




I HAVE LIVED
WELL AND I'M
NOT AFRAID
OF DEATH. AND
YET...




...AND YET IF ONLY
I KNEW THAT ALL
WOULD BE WELL WITH
MY DEAR QUEEN WHO
IS EXPECTING MY
CHILD...

O KING,
THERE IS
NOTHING TO
WORRY
ABOUT.



THE QUEEN WILL BE
SAFE. SHE WILL
BEAR A SON WHO
WILL ONE DAY RULE
OVER THE
KINGDOM.




RULE OVER THE KINGDOM?
MY KINGDOM? NO!
NEVER!

OH, GOD!
I FEAR THE
WORST.

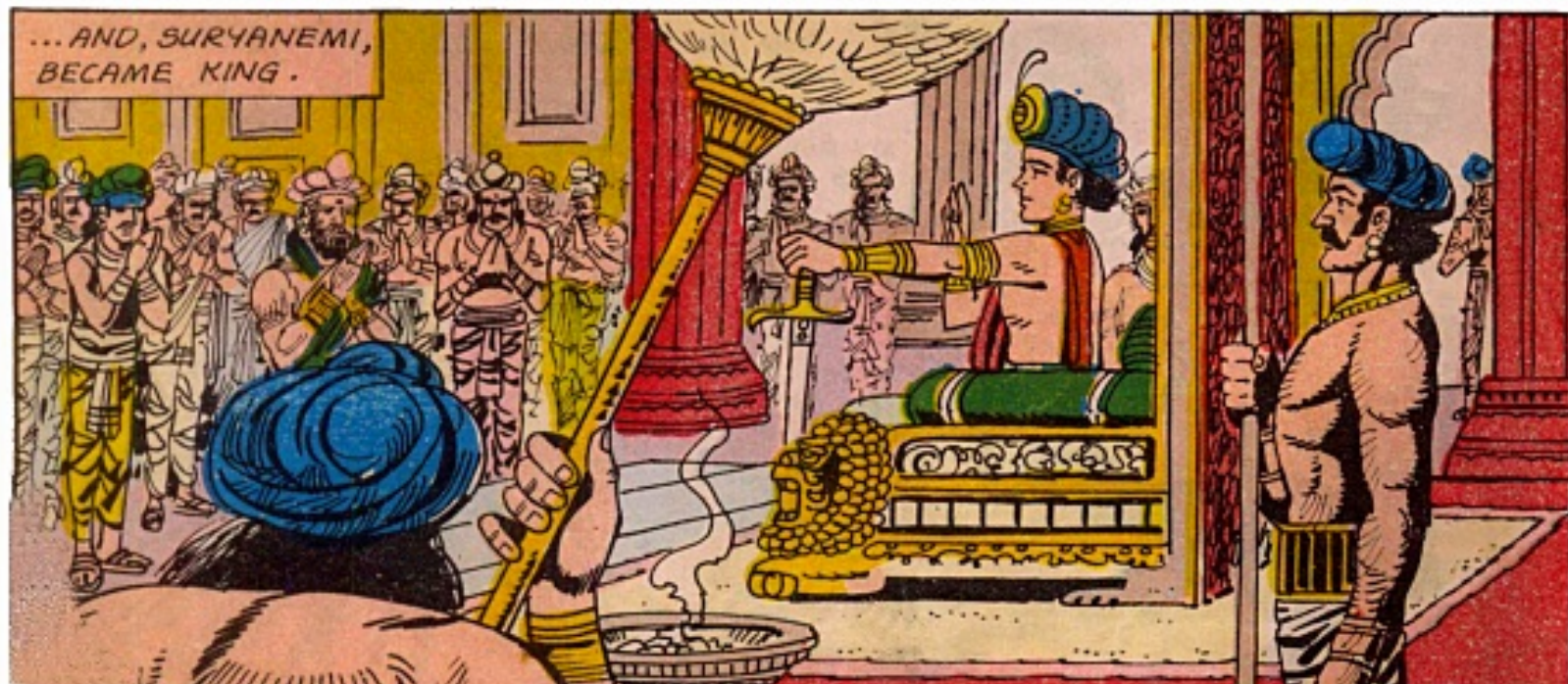


GOSHTHILA...
PROTECT MY...
DEAR QUEEN AND
...AND HER
UNBORN SON
...WHEN I AM
GONE.



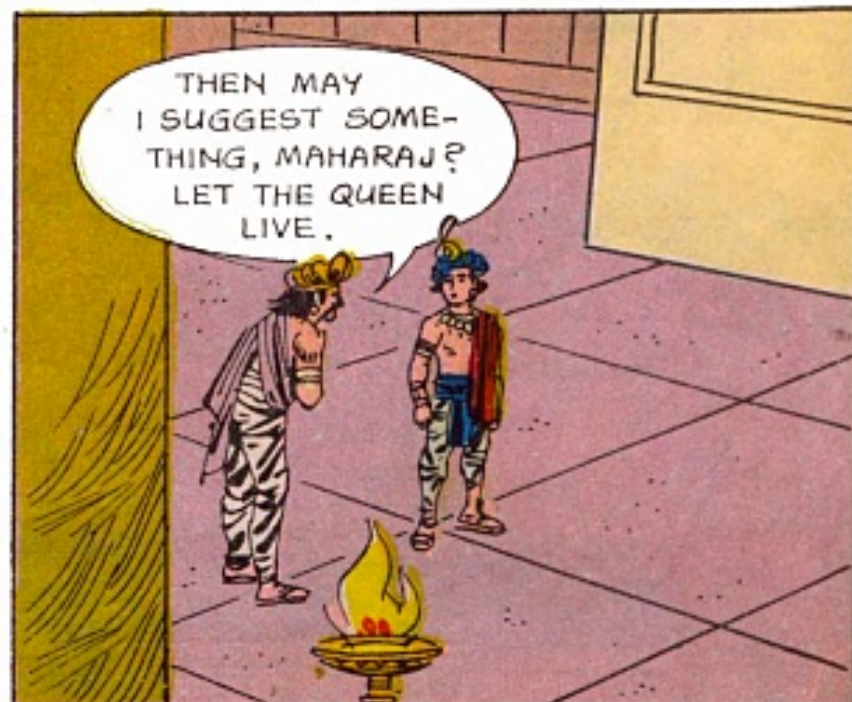
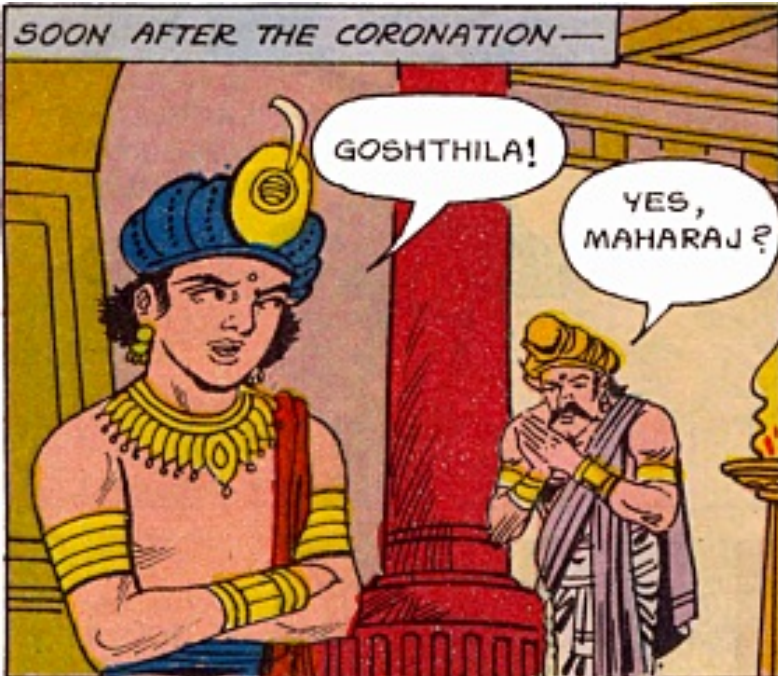
I WOULD HAVE
DONE SO, MAHARAJ,
EVEN WITHOUT
YOUR BIDDING.

A FEW DAYS LATER,
THE KING DIED ...



...AND, SURYANEMI,
BECAME KING.

SOON AFTER THE CORONATION—





IF SHE
HAS A SON,
WE'LL KILL
HIM.



AND YOUR THRONE
WILL BE SAFE!

AN EXCELLENT
SUGGESTION,
GOSHTHILA!



THEN SHALL I...
SHALL I TAKE THE
QUEEN TO MY
HOUSE SO I CAN
KEEP A CLOSE
WATCH ON HER?



I LEAVE THE
MATTER IN
YOUR HANDS
NOW, GOSHTHILA.



THAT VERY DAY
GOSHTHILA TOOK
THE QUEEN HOME.

I DON'T KNOW WHY
I HAD TO LEAVE THE
PALACE AND COME HERE,
GOSHTHILA. BUT I TRUST
YOU.

I ONLY HOPE
I WILL BE ABLE
TO LIVE UP TO
THAT TRUST.

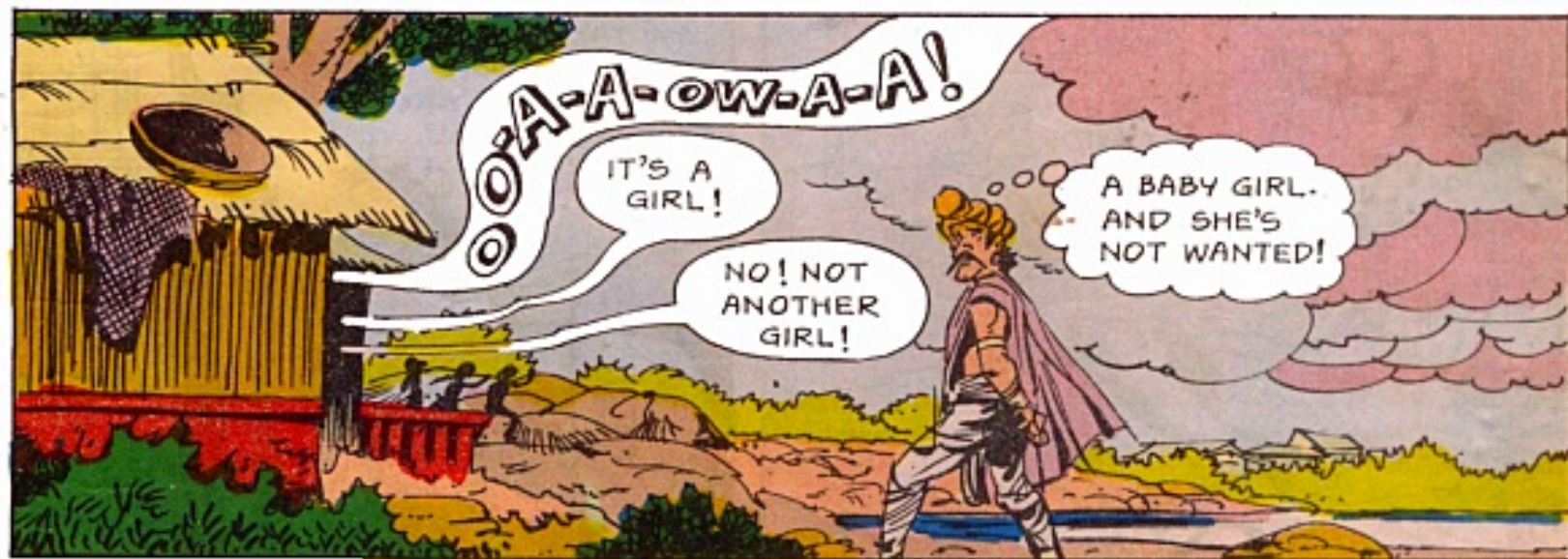
A WEEK LATER —

A SON HAS BEEN BORN TO THE QUEEN. WHAT SHALL WE DO NOW?

LEAVE THAT TO ME.

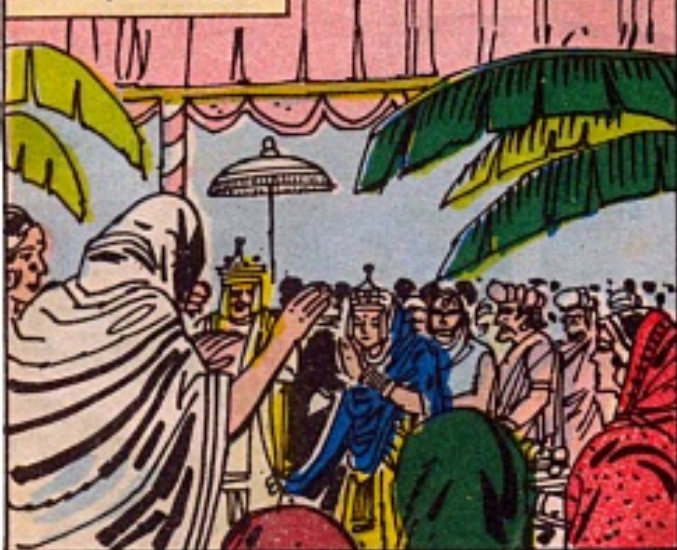
NOT FEELING AS CONFIDENT AS HE SOUNDED, GOSHTHILA WALKED OUT OF THE HOUSE.

NOW WHAT? WHAT DO I DO?





MANY YEARS PASSED. THE QUEEN'S FOSTER DAUGHTER WAS GIVEN AWAY IN MARRIAGE.



A FEW DAYS AFTER THE WEDDING —



AT LEAST LET ME SEE HIM, GOSHTHILA.



GOSHTHILA WENT TO THE FISHERMAN'S HOUSE.



VERY WELL, SIR. BUT HE'LL NEVER MAKE A GOOD FISHERMAN.



SEND HIM TO THE PALACE WITH THE FISH FROM TOMORROW.



THE NEXT DAY —

MY SON, HENCEFORTH
YOU WILL TAKE THE
FISH TO THE
PALACE.

I'LL GO WITH
YOU TODAY.
FROM TOMORROW
YOU ARE ON
YOUR OWN.

SO THE TWO SET OUT.

GOSHTHILA WAS WAITING
FOR THE BOY.

AM, THERE YOU ARE!
THE QUEEN MOTHER
WISHES TO SEE
YOU.

ME?

?

YES. YOUR MOTHER
CAN WAIT OUTSIDE
THE CHAMBER.

AS THEY ENTERED THE QUEEN'S
CHAMBER —

MY SON!

THE NEXT MOMENT —

OH, GOD! MY
SON... MY
FOSTER-SON...
IS A PRINCE!



SHE SAW WHAT
YOU DID! SHE'LL
GIVE US AWAY.



RUN! GO, MY BOY!
QUICK! WE, TOO, WILL
HAVE TO FLEE
FROM HERE.



I...I...
I DON'T
UNDERSTAND
...MY SON.

SH!
FOLLOW
ME! TRUST
ME!



MEANWHILE —



WOMAN!





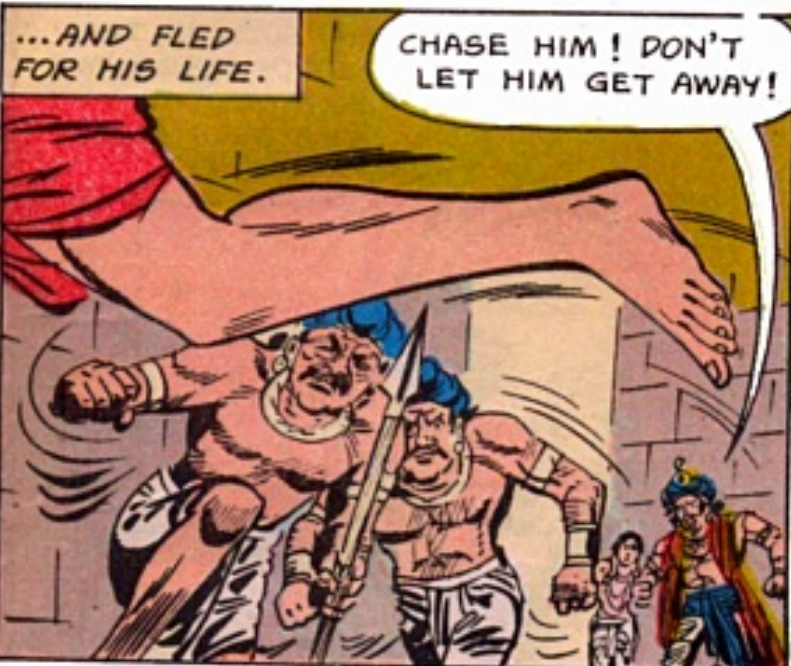


I DON'T KNOW
WHAT I'VE DONE,
BUT I DO KNOW
THAT ...



...I MUST
FLEE.

THE BOY TURNED...



...AND FLED
FOR HIS LIFE.

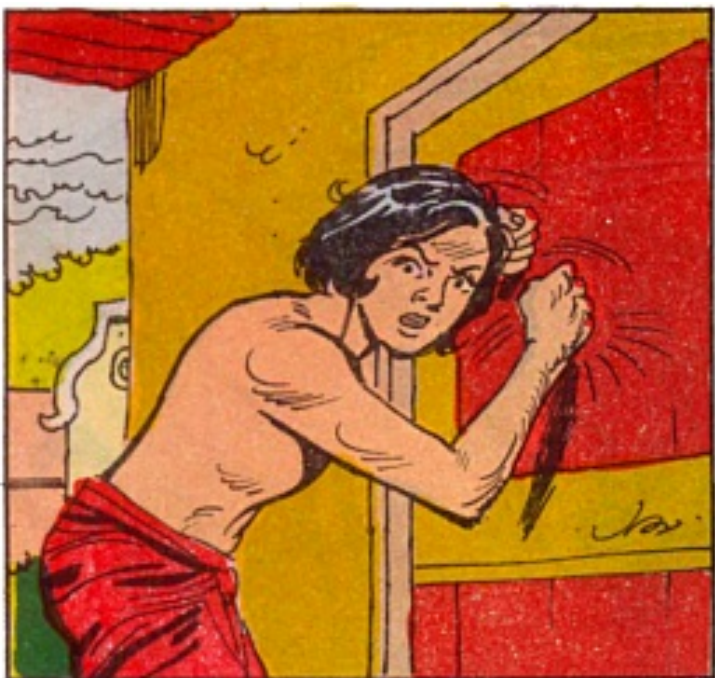
CHASE HIM! DON'T
LET HIM GET AWAY!



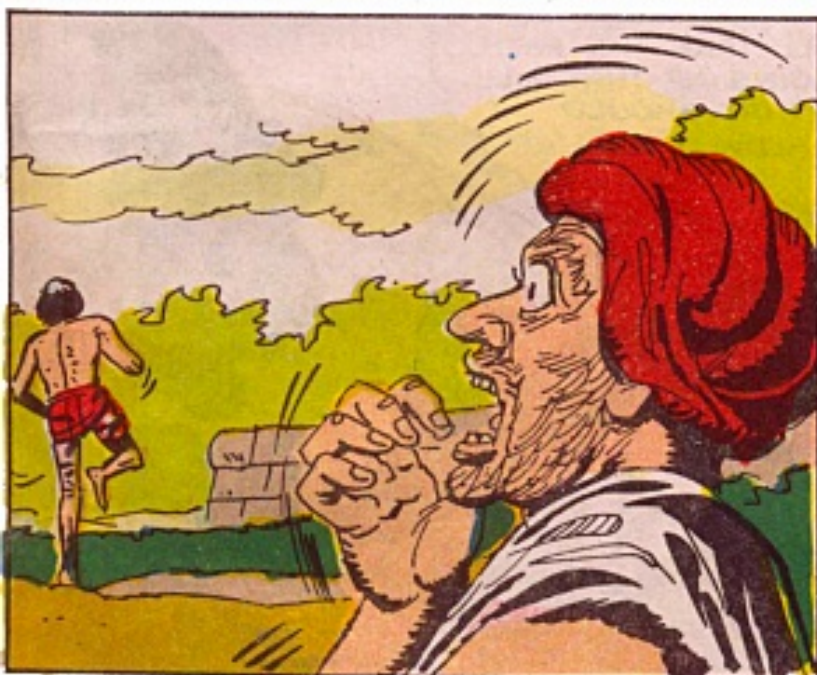
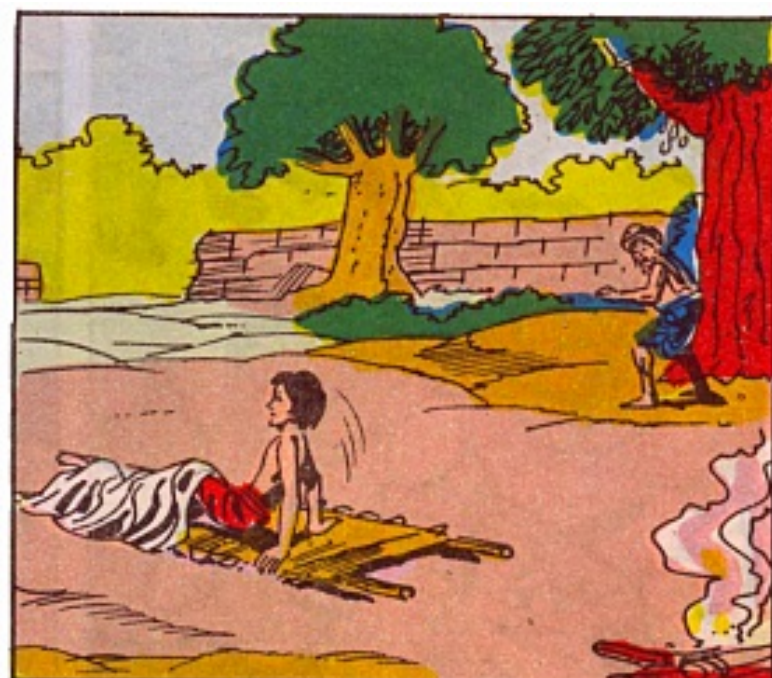
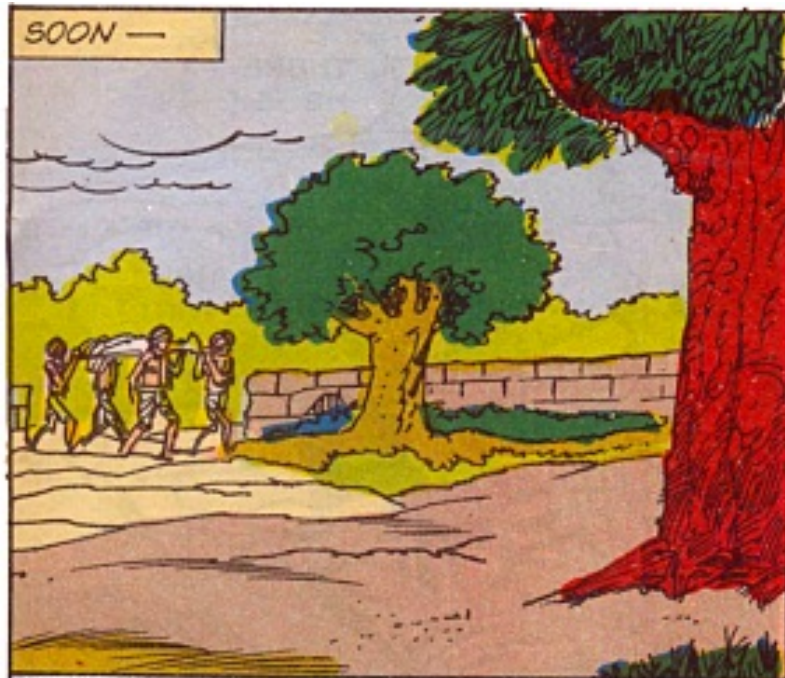
PHEW! I'VE LEFT
THEM FAR BEHIND!
BUT THEY'LL
COME AFTER
ME.

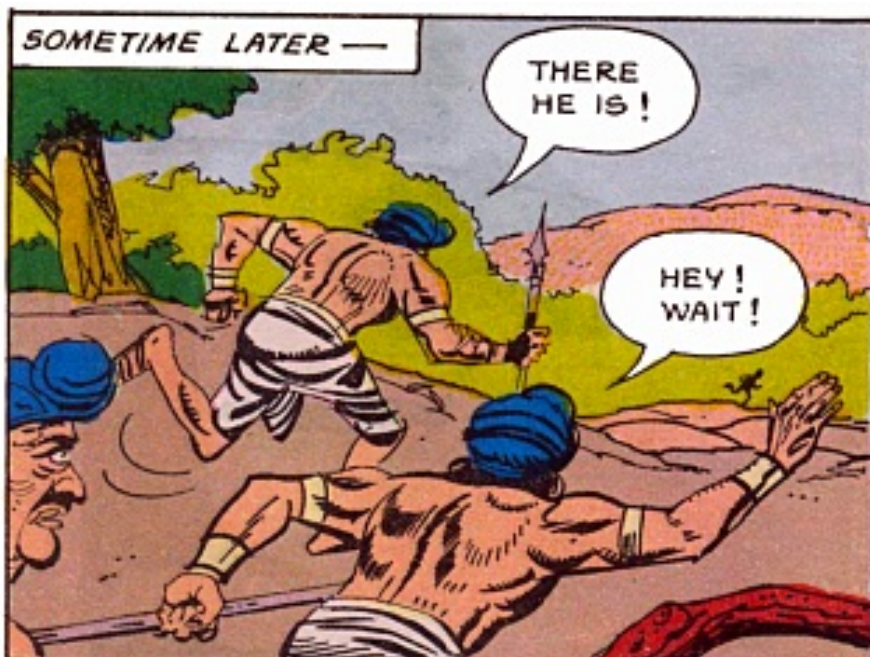


I'LL HIDE IN
THIS HOUSE.



SOON —





HIDDEN GEM

When Rama, the dutiful son of Dasharatha, left for the forest with Sita and Lakshmana, he came to the bank of the river Ganga, where he met Guha, the simple, rustic boatman.

"Please ferry us across the river," said Rama. But the boatman stood where he was.

"Please Guha, won't you take us across the river?"

"I will, Lord! But I heard that the dust of your feet turned granite into a woman (Ahalya). My boat is made of mere wood. So I'm afraid to let you step into it, unless I first wash your feet, Lord. Please let me do so."

Rama smiled and agreed. That was how the boatman had his simple desire to wash the feet of Rama, fulfilled.

— from Ramcharit Manas
Ayodhyakanda



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The Editor

Amar Chitra Katha – 'Hidden Gems' Section

Mahalaxmi Chambers (Basement) 22 Bhulabhai Desai Road Bombay-400 026.



AMAR CHITRA KATHA

QUIZ CONTEST-10

B



Name the robber who became Buddha's disciple.

A

1



The child later became a saint. Who was the child?

2

KAMSA,
THE EIGHTH
CHILD BORN TO
DEVAKI WILL
SLAY YOU!

Who was the eighth child of Devaki?

C



THIS CHILD WILL BE
EITHER A KING OF
KINGS OR A GREAT
SAINT.



What was he called as a child?

HASAN, YOU
WILL BE A
KING ONE DAY!
TAKE THIS
AND GO!



AN UMBRELLA!
THE SYMBOL OF
A KING FOR ME.

Later Hasan founded a kingdom in the Deccan.
What title did he assume on becoming the Sultan?



Identify the famous shrine shown above.

Rules:

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2. The remaining all-correct entries will each win a colourful picture post card
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Name: _____

Age: _____

Address: _____

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MY SOLUTIONS

A 1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

B _____

C _____

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entries : 30 • 8 • 1983

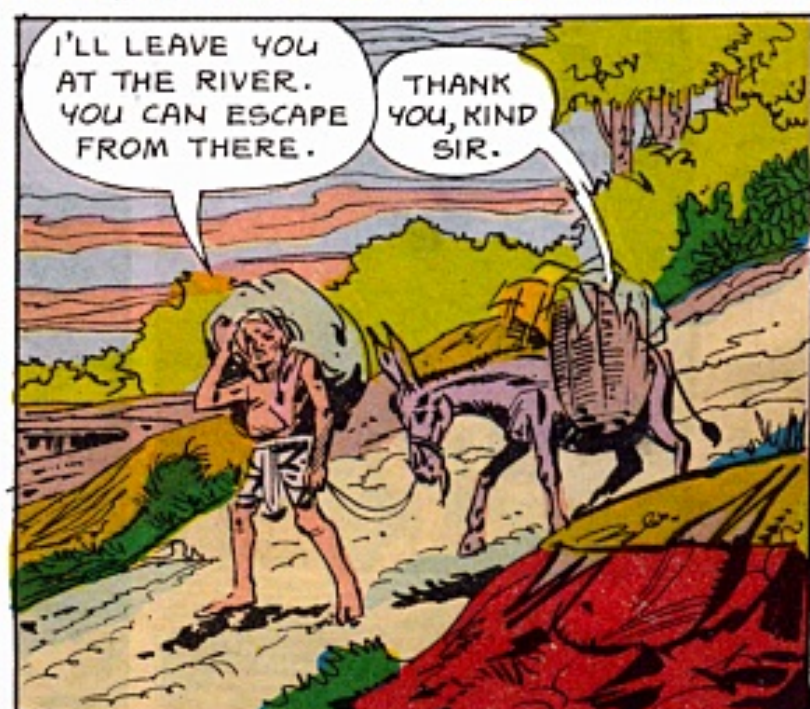
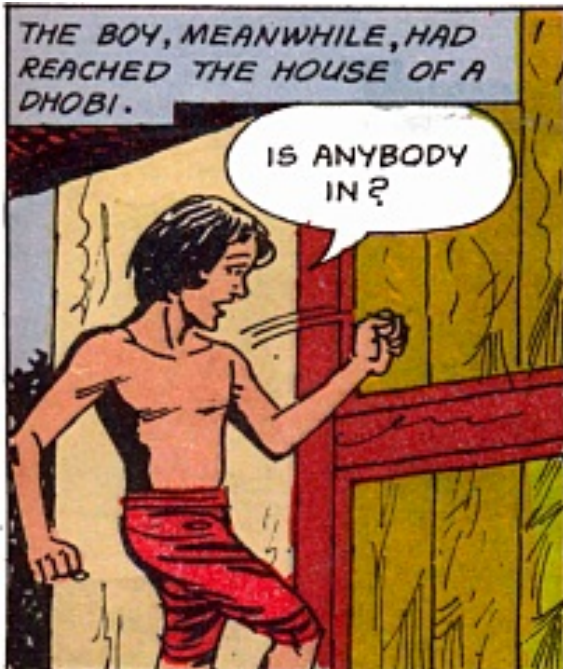
"I'll make my airplane fly
High, high up in the sky
I'll get some Gems, just for fun
For me, for you, for everyone!"



Got a moment? Get a Gem!

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Chocolates

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FROM THE RIVER, THE BOY WALKED TO THE NEXT VILLAGE WHERE HE SAW A COBBLER AT WORK.



SIR, CAN YOU MAKE ME A PAIR OF SLIPPERS WITH THE HEELS IN FRONT?



THE COBBLER AGREED AND SOON —



THIS SHOULD PUT THEM OFF MY TRACK FOR A WHILE.

WHEN HE REACHED THE CITY WALL —



HM! I CAN'T CLIMB OVER THIS WALL.



THE DRAIN!
THAT'S IT!



AS HE SWAM ABOUT IN THE WATER A GROUP OF NAGAS SAW HIM.



A STRANGER!

LET'S
TAKE HIM
TO OUR
KING



DAYS LATER AT THE PALACE OF THE
NAGA KING —

O KING, OUR
LIVES ARE IN
DANGER.



THE SNAKE-CHARMERS
OF SURYANEMI'S KINGDOM
ARE PREPARING SPELLS
TO ATTACK US.



THEY'RE
AFTER ME, NOT
YOU. I WILL
GO AWAY.

WHERE
WILL YOU
GO?



I'LL GO TO
THE FORESTS
OF PINGALA.

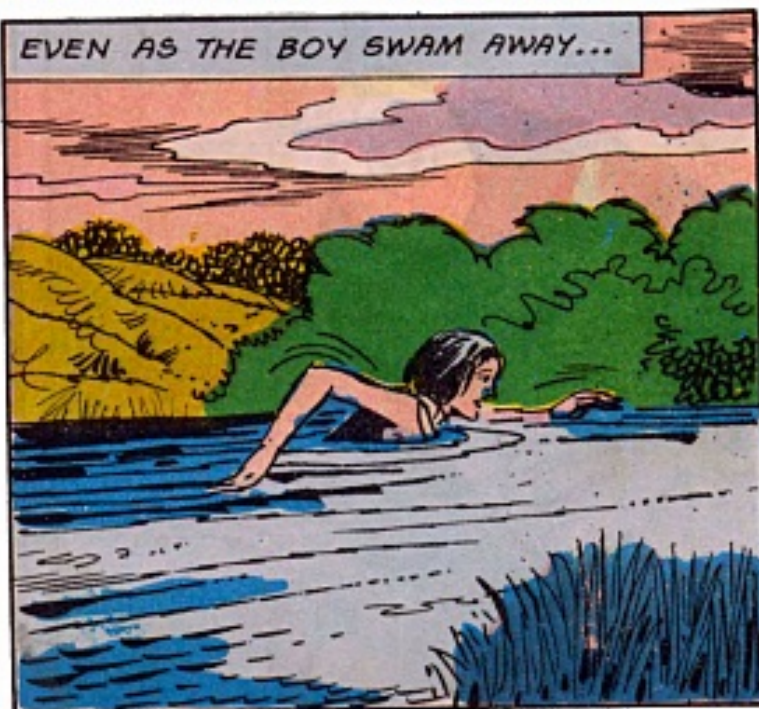
THE YAKSHA
WILL EAT YOU
UP.



I'D RATHER
TAKE THAT CHANCE
THAN BE KILLED
BY THE KING'S
MEN.



EVEN AS THE BOY SWAM AWAY...



...THE SNAKE-CHARMERS CAME TO THE NAGA KING.

IF YOU GIVE UP THE BOY, WE'LL SPARE YOU.

YOU ARE TOO LATE. HE'S FLED TO THE FOREST OF PINGALA.



PINGALA, THE YAKSHA?

YES. THE BOY IS AS GOOD AS DEAD.



LET'S RETURN TO THE KING AND GIVE HIM THE NEWS. IT SHOULD MAKE HIM HAPPY.



BUT WHEN SURYANEMI HEARD THE NEWS —

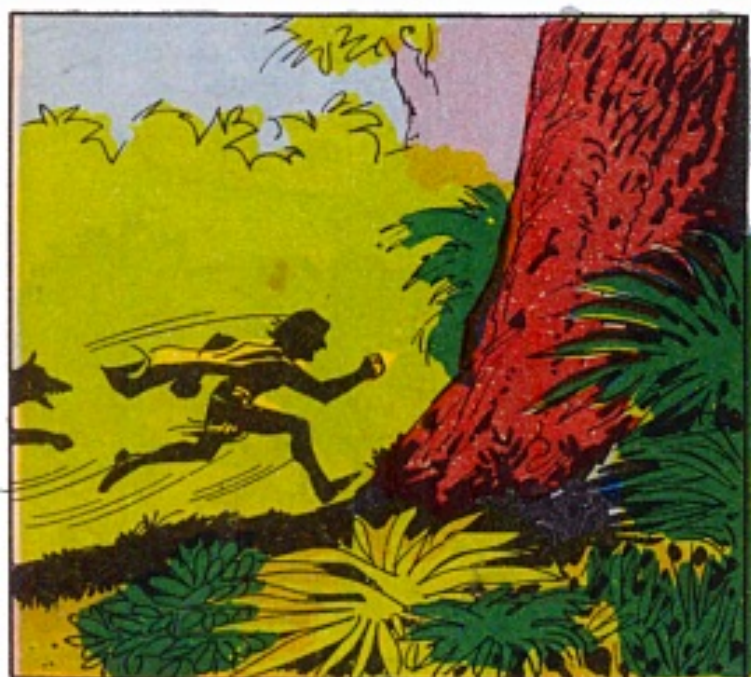
HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE THAT HE'LL DIE?



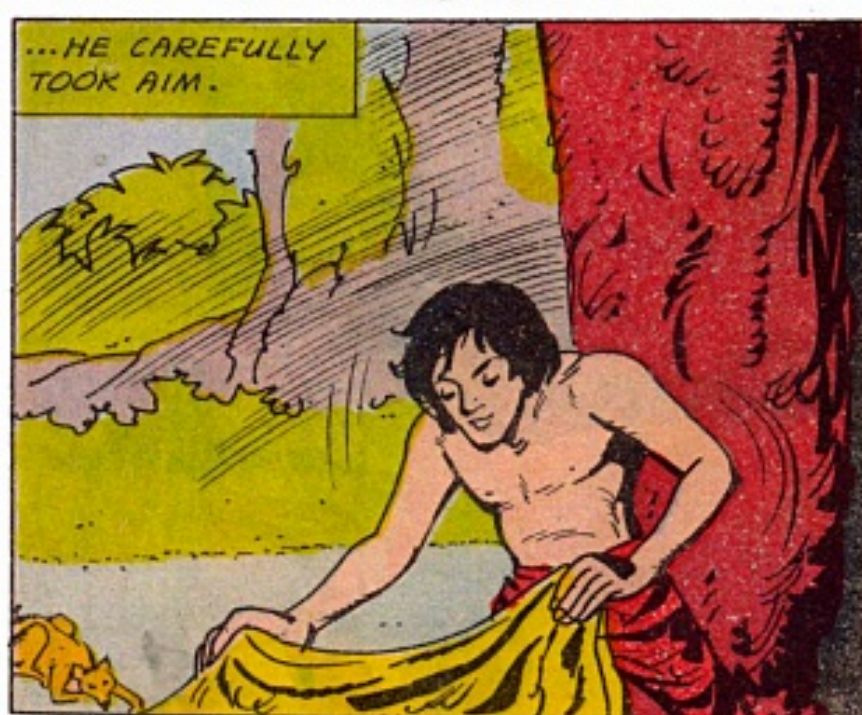
SURROUND THE FOREST AND KILL HIM ON SIGHT, IF HE COMES OUT ALIVE.

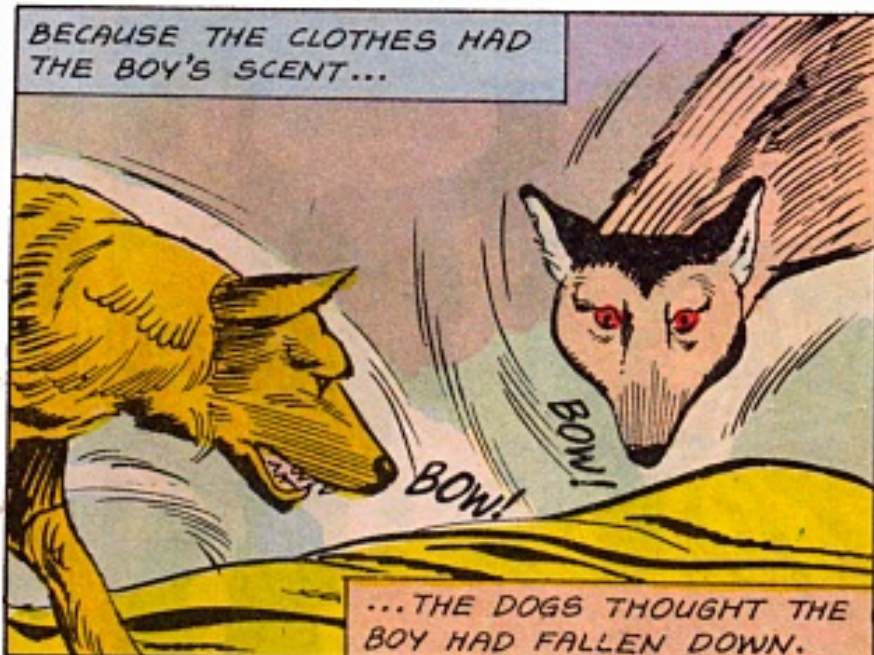
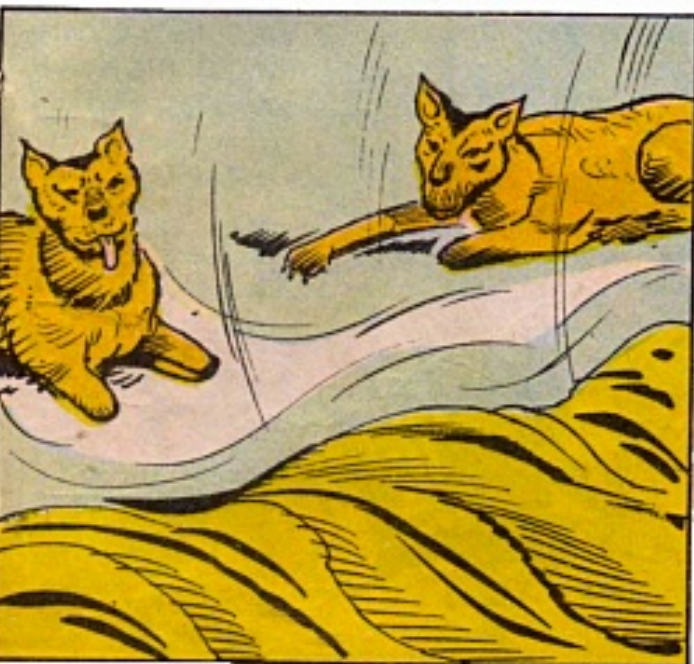


THE BOY, MEANWHILE, HAD REACHED THE FOREST AND WAS WANDERING ABOUT WHEN —









THE YOUTH CAME
DOWN...



...AND WANDERED ABOUT THE FOREST...



...TILL HE CAME UPON A WIZENED
OLD MAN.

HA! SO WICKED
PINGALA IS
DEAD!

HOW DID
YOU KNOW,
SIR?



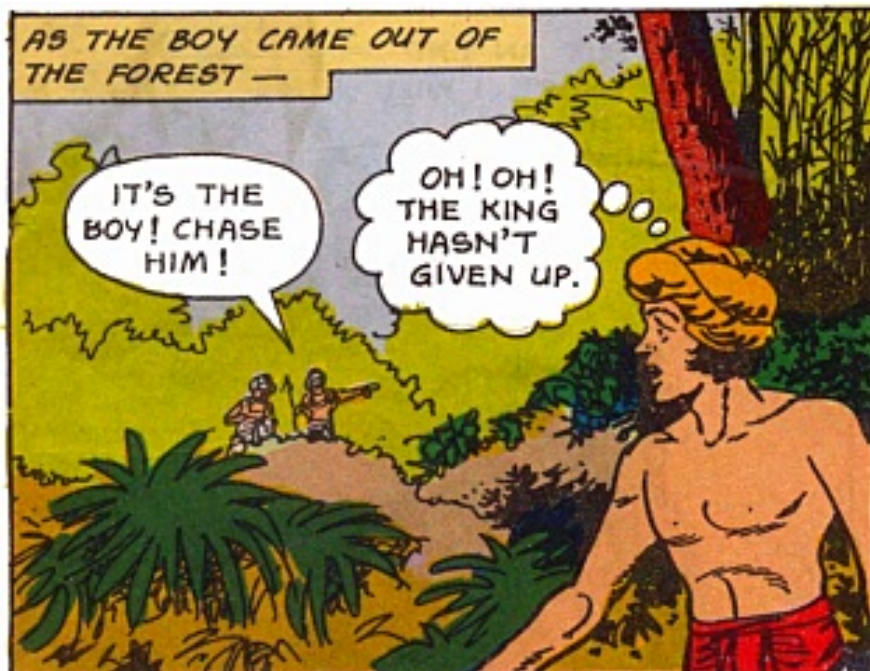
HE WAS DESTIN-
ED TO BE KILLED
BY A YOUTH. YOU
ARE ALIVE, SO
HE MUST BE
DEAD!

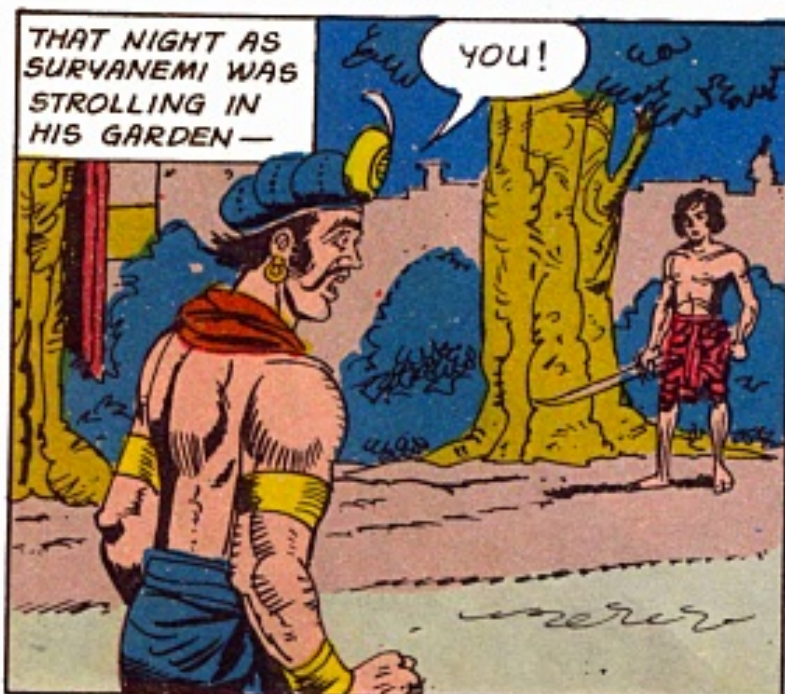
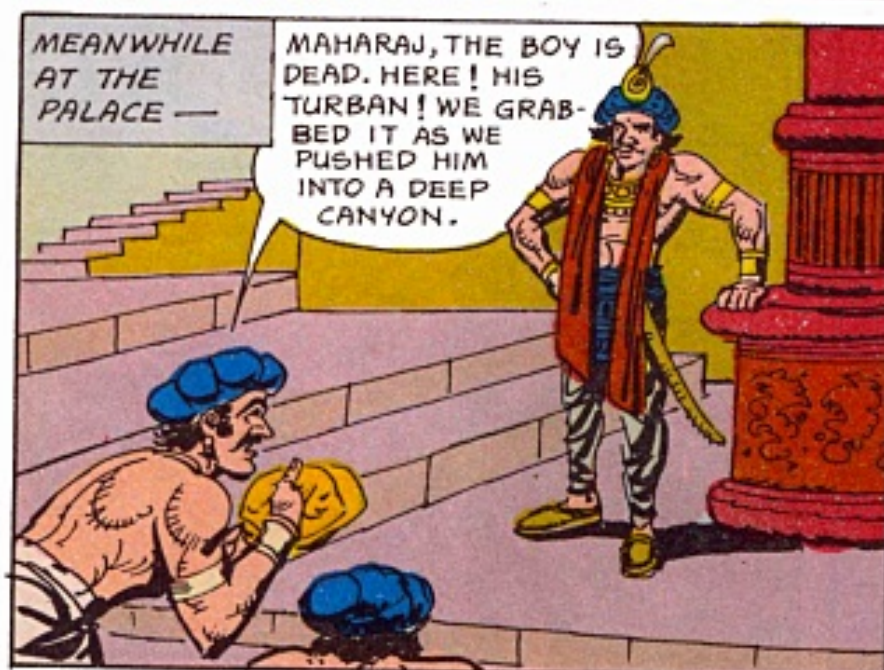


THEN ONE
MORNING —

GO OUT
THE WAY I TOLD
YOU, SON. THIS
TURBAN WILL
PROTECT YOU ON
THE WAY.



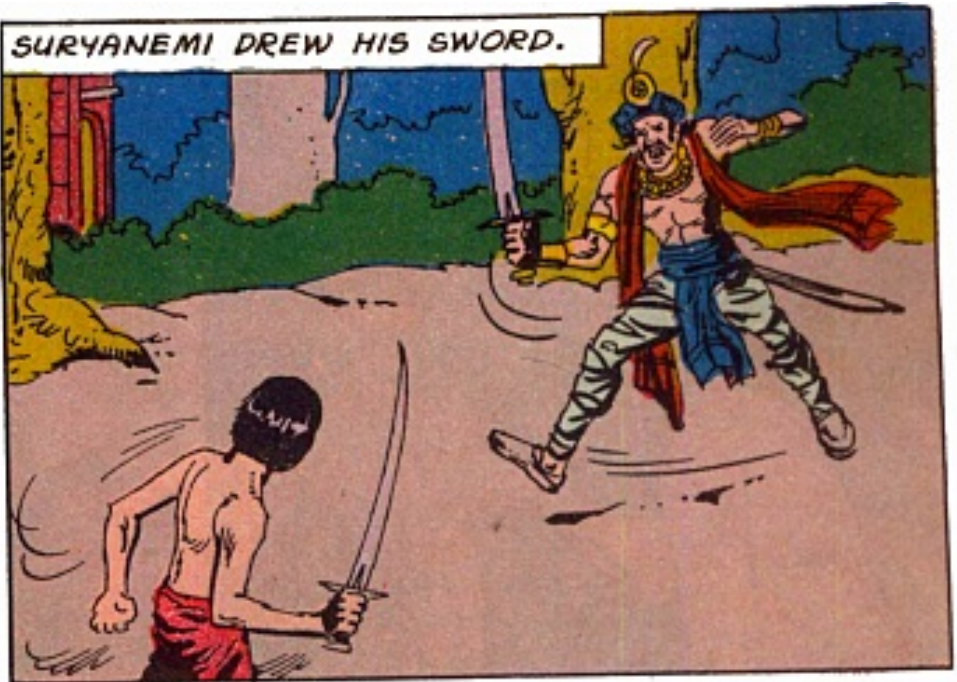




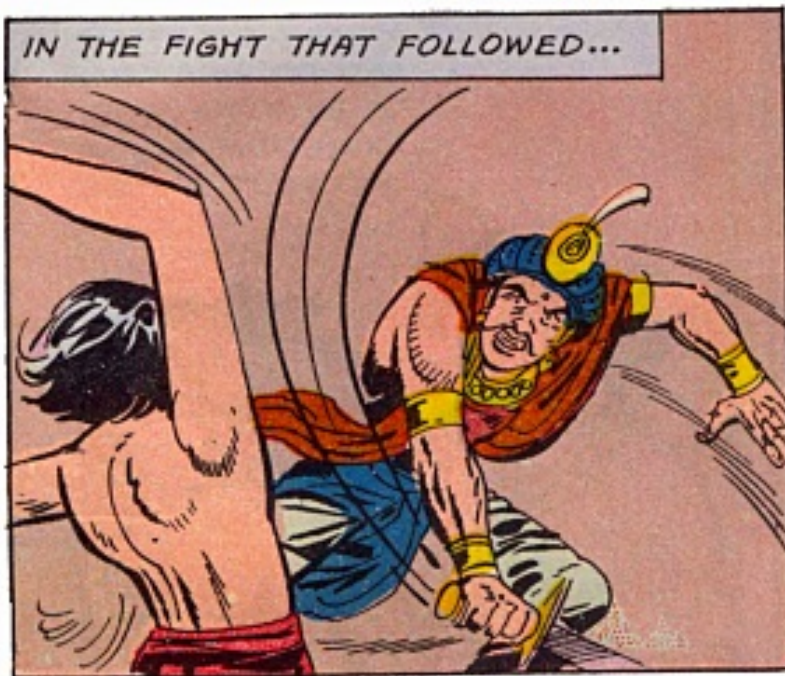
... BUT HERE
I AM —
KILL ME IF
YOU CAN.



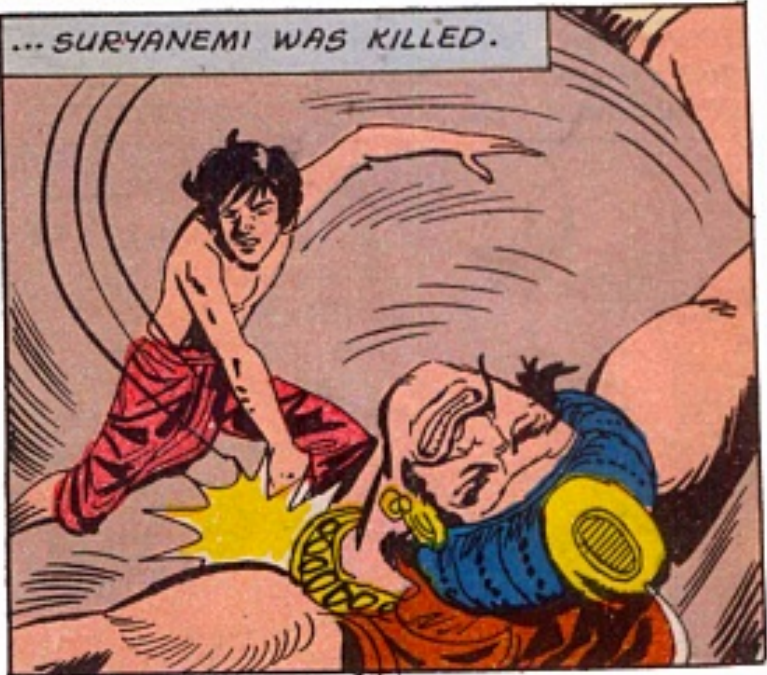
SURYANEMI DREW HIS SWORD.



IN THE FIGHT THAT FOLLOWED...



... SURYANEMI WAS KILLED.




HOW I HATED
DOING THAT!

BUT HE
LEFT YOU
NO CHOICE.




YOU!






TELL ME WHY HE
WANTED TO HAVE
ME KILLED.




IT'S A LONG
STORY, SON.
A SAD
STORY.

GOSHTHILA THEN TOLD THE BOY ABOUT
THE PROPHECY, SURYANEMI'S WICKED
ORDER AND HOW HE HAD AVERTED IT.



HE WAS MORE
ATTACHED TO THE
KINGDOM THAN TO
HIS MOTHER OR
BROTHER.



COME. LET US GO
AND DO WHAT HAS
TO BE DONE. THE
KINGDOM IS
WITHOUT A KING.

THE BOY WAS CROWNED
KING. HE RULED OVER
VARANASI AND LOOKED
AFTER HIS SUBJECTS
EVEN BETTER THAN
HIS FATHER HAD DONE.

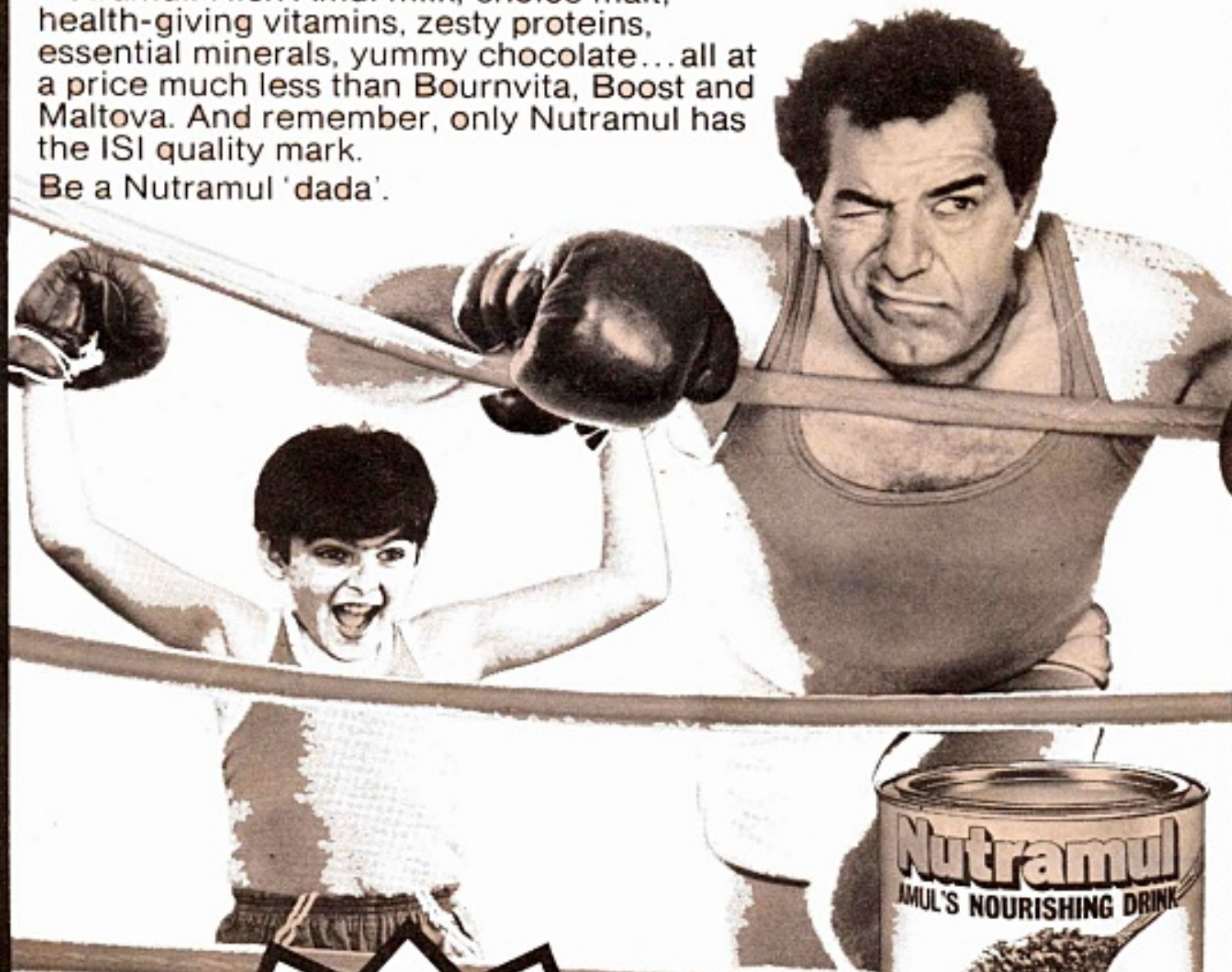


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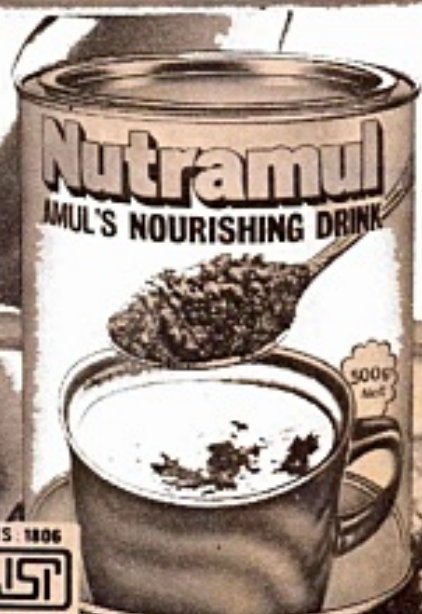
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